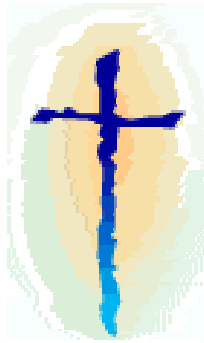


Why  
Jesus  
Suffered

## Easter 2008

## The Schedule

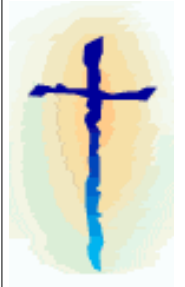
The Cross will be First Presbyterian Church's focus this Lent, which runs from Ash Wednesday (February 6) to Easter Day (March 23). Each Sunday, leading up to Passion Sunday the congregation will ponder a classic "explanation" of the Cross with a view to understand freshly how it changes our lives.



Why  
Jesus  
Suffered

Date	Topic
Feb 10	"Bought at a Price"
Feb 17	"...So We May Become Like Him"
Feb 24	"Unmasking the Dominion System"
March 2	"Hearts of Stone Can Beat Again"
March 9	"Canceling the Debt We Could Never Pay"

## A Sermon Series Lent 2008



## A Sermon Series Lent 2008

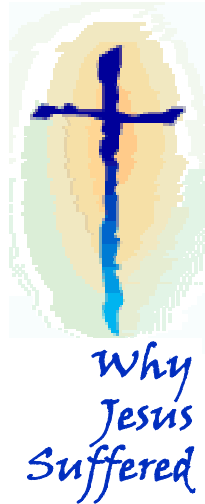
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# Why Jesus Suffered



**IN THE TOWN SQUARE** of an old European village stood a giant concrete cross. The village elders decided that the town needed a facelift. Among the modernizing projects was the demolition of the cross. The construction crew arrived with crane and backhoe, and attempted to unearth the cross. It didn't budge.

The town simpleton stood near watching in amusement. Finally, when the workers paused to reassess their tactics, the little man jumped up and danced around chanting: "You can't dig it out, you can't dig it out. It goes to the center of the world."

## The Enigma of the Cross

The cross of Jesus has always been both an enigma and Christianity's greatest glory. It is stunning to think that the God who is to be revered and obeyed was hung on Roman gallows in the most brutal manner imaginable. At one level, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is the worst event ever to take place.

But horror was not to be the final word from the cross. What makes the cross so amazing is that Jesus' followers have, from the beginning, sensed something wonderful in the midst of the horror of the cross. Jesus' suffering made available some kind of deliverance.

## What does Jesus' Cross Mean?

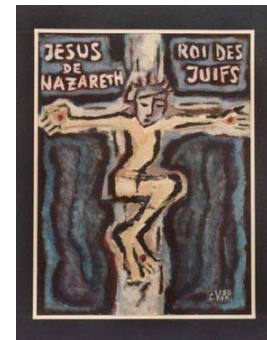
Ever since 33 a.d., Christians have attempted to make clear what is wonderful about the cross. Somehow people are set free from deep slavery. Somehow a rift between people is healed.

No explanation of the cross's meaning has ever exhausted the full wonder that Christians have sensed in Jesus' suffering. What we have instead of a final, official interpretation is a cluster of explanations, which, taken together, lift up the crucifixion

as too wonderful and deep to grasp fully. Indeed, the cross just may go to the center of the world.

## The Cross in 2008

The cross is controversial these days. Christian thinkers insist that the cross means more than many churches are giving it credit for meaning. Put bluntly, not only is the individual Christian set aright with God, but so is the whole creation.



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